

15 October 2024

News

We reveal the heart-breaking reality of dementia happening behind closed doors

The powerful new campaign from The Alzheimer's Society aims to shed light on the hidden reality of dementia and the devastating impact of a lack of support, creating an unignorable case for dementia to be made a political, health and care priority.

Al glasses to anticipating falls: firms vie to win £1m for dementia technology

Designed to help people with dementia, the glasses present wearers with a screen in front of their eyes upon which floats a blue target that can be directed at objects. The system not only identifies items, such as a kitchen appliance, but it can provide information on how to use them and use artificial intelligence (AI) to learn from previous interactions. With a built-in microphone and speakers, the glasses can record and play back memories associated with objects, while a gentle female voice with a Scottish lilt interacts with wearers. They are one of five projects to reach the finals of the <u>longitude prize on dementia</u> – a £1m award for technology designed to help people with such conditions live independently.

Dementia named UK's leading cause of death for second year in a row

This is the second year in a row that dementia has been recorded as the leading cause of death in England and Wales. <u>The ONS statistic</u> hammers home that as the number of people facing dementia continues to grow, we can no longer delay making urgent changes to health and social care systems to ensure that everyone affected by the condition gets the specialist care they need.

Falls in Older Adults May Presage Dementia Onset

Falls are common and potentially serious in older adults, since they can lead to broken hips and other serious medical complications. A new study suggests another reason to be wary of falls: They may be an early warning sign of impending Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

Cannabis Product May Help Ease Agitation of Alzheimer's

A small study suggests that one of the main active ingredients in cannabis, THC, may help to relieve agitation in people with Alzheimer's disease. The researchers found that a synthetic form of the marijuana derivative reduced agitation levels in people with Alzheimer's by an average of 30 percent. The drug appeared to produce similar calming effects as powerful psychiatric drugs currently used to treat agitation but with few of the serious side effects, such as delirium, seizures or increased risk of premature death.













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Webinars

How can a GP help people with young onset dementia?

This webinar on Wednesday 16th October 2024, will be led by Dr Nerida Burnie, a general practitioner with a special interest in dementia. It will include key points where GPs can help people with young onset dementia including:

- The challenge of getting a diagnosis
- What GPs can do to help people and their family's post-diagnosis
- How GPs can advocate for change, identify gaps in services and improve the accuracy of prevalence and dementia type data

Working together to support children and young people affected by parental young onset dementia

During this webinar on Tuesday 19th November 2024 between 12-1pm, Hannah Gardner, Dementia UK's Consultant Admiral Nurse for Children and Young People and Dr Patricia Masterson-Algar, a research fellow and lecturer at Bangor University, will talk about how progress is being made to improve the support that young people affected by parental young onset dementia receive.









